

Chapter 1. Purpose and Need

1.1 Purpose and Need for the Plan

The purpose of this planning effort is to develop a Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) that will provide overall management and long-term direction for the public lands and resources administered by the Eagle Lake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This PRMP is being developed in accord with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA). FLPMA requires BLM to “develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands” (43 USC 1712 [a]). Typically BLM uses a period of 15 to 20 years as a basis for impact analysis. A PRMP may be amended or revised at any time to reflect changed circumstances or new information.

The Eagle Lake Field Office PRMP was developed in coordination with the Alturas and Surprise Field Office PRMPs to provide a consistent framework for managing public lands and resource uses in northeast California (CA) and northwest Nevada (NV). A PRMP documents broad-scale land use plan decisions for all resources and resource uses. The PRMP determines which lands are open or available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed, or unavailable, to certain uses. The decisions derived from the plan will guide later site-specific implementing of management actions. This PRMP establishes the following:

- goals and objectives for resource management,
- measures needed to achieve goals and objectives, and
- parameters for using BLM-administered lands.

Current management direction for the Eagle Lake Field Office is contained in ten land use plans or amendments that were developed from 1973-2002. New information, changed circumstances, and resource conditions since these plans were prepared require a single updated PRMP.

Approval of a PRMP is considered a major federal action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Section 1601.0-6). BLM has prepared this PRMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ’s) regulations and BLM’s own procedures for implementing the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA). The FEIS portion of the document analyzes the effects of implementing the Preferred Alternative for the Eagle Lake Field office. The PRMP and FEIS are integrated into this document and are not separate reports.

1.2 Changed Circumstances

Population growth in the vicinity of Reno, NV and Redding, CA has caused an increased demand for use of public lands to support community needs and low impact recreation. The Eagle Lake Field Office has experienced an increase in requests for land tenure decisions or adjustments and for land use permits and authorizations, particularly those for renewable energy development.

In addition to traditional consumptive uses, public interest has expanded in uses that emphasize aesthetic values such as open space and low-impact recreational opportunities. Changes in the type of recreation uses and the demand for diversified recreational opportunities can result in conflicts between uses and resource concerns that the old land use plans were not designed to address. Concerns include how these uses affect ecosystem health, local communities, and state, regional, and tribal interests.

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The number of plant and animal species recognized by CA and NV as special status species has increased. In addition, the decline of sage-grouse populations in the western United States (U.S.) has triggered BLM national, state, and local strategies with new guidance to address habitat requirements of the species. Vegetation communities continue to be impacted by both encroachment of western juniper into sagebrush-grasslands and the invasion of annual exotic grasses and noxious weeds.

New protocol agreements between BLM and the State Historic Preservation Offices of CA and NV guide the protection, inventory, and conservation of cultural resources as they relate to other resources and land uses. Emphasis is being placed on finding and managing traditional cultural properties in accordance with local tribes.

1.3 Planning Area

This PRMP discusses two distinct geographic areas: 1) the Eagle Lake Field Office area boundary, and 2) BLM-administered lands within this boundary that are the basis for planning decisions within this PRMP.

The Eagle Lake Field Office area encompasses 4,858,251 acres, not all of which are under BLM's management (Table 1.3-1, Figure 1.3-3). The planning and decision area for resources and resource uses within this PRMP refers to the 1,022,767 surface acres of public lands within the field office boundary, which are under BLM jurisdiction. These lands vary from small, scattered parcels to large, contiguous blocks. Management decisions in this PRMP will apply only to these lands.

Table 1.3-1 Land Ownership in the Eagle Lake Planning Area

Ownership	Acres
Bureau of Land Management	1,022,767
Indian land	1,791
Military	82,894
National Park Service	35,836
Private	1,530,539
State	68,739
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	2,115,685
Total	4,858,251

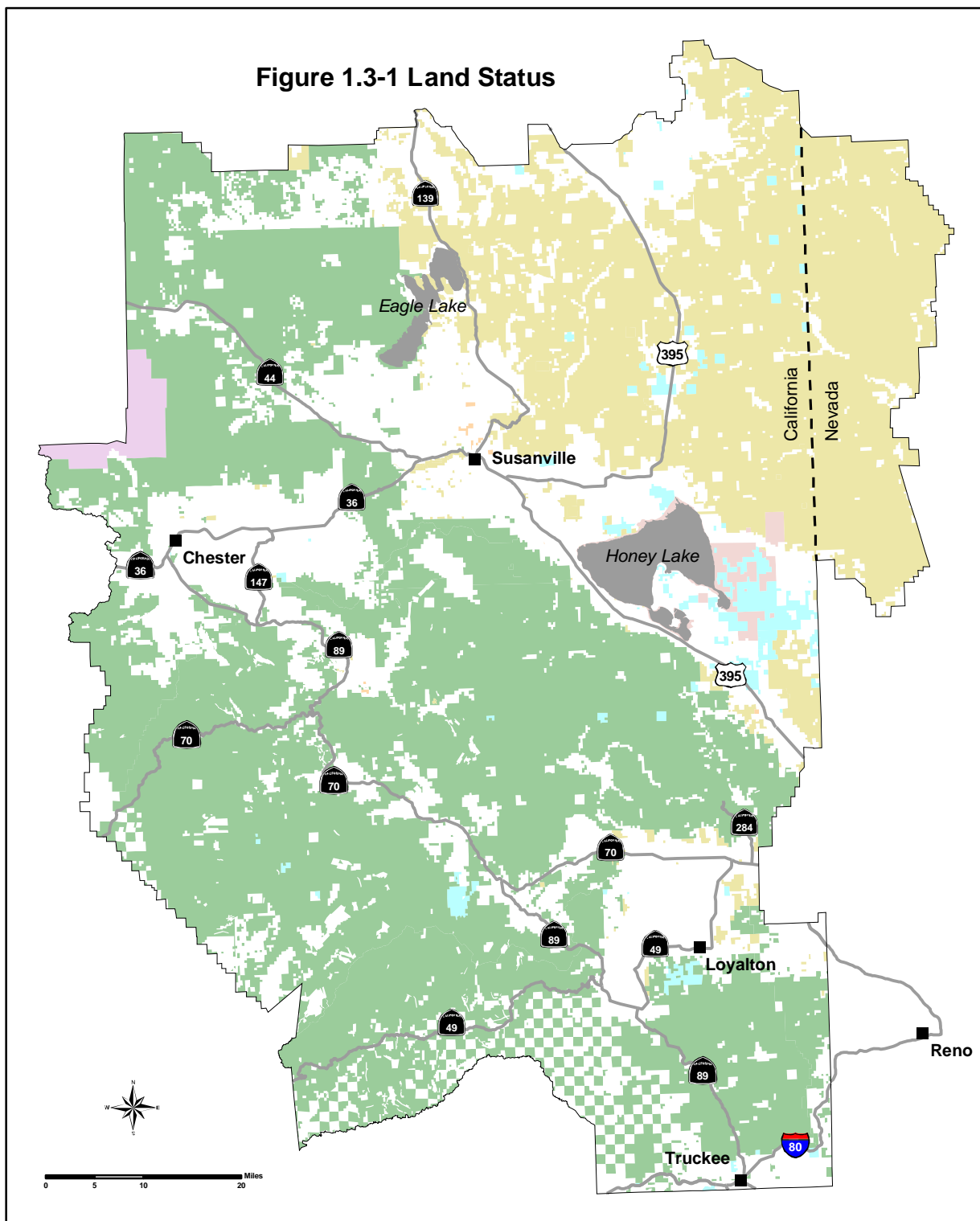
BLM-administered lands in the planning area are located in four counties: Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties in CA, and Washoe, County, NV. (Table 1.3-2, Figure 1.3-3 Land Status).

Table 1.3-2 BLM-Administered Lands in the Four-County Eagle Lake Planning Area

County	Acres by County ^a
Lassen, CA	699,564
Sierra, CA	3,417
Washoe, NV	309,698
Plumas, CA	10,088
Total	1,022,767

^a All acreage is approximate.

Figure 1.3-1 Land Status



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
EAGLE LAKE FIELD OFFICE
Proposed Resource Management Plan / Final EIS



Fall 2006



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregated use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

LEGEND

- Cities
- Highways
- Lakes

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional
- Indian Lands
- Private
- Water

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1.4 Planning and Scoping Processes

Issues related to resource management in the Eagle Lake planning area were assembled during the scoping process, which consisted of public scoping meetings, field tours, socioeconomic workshops, and interactions with federal, state, tribal, and county collaborators. These issues, summarized in Table 1.4-1, were used to develop alternatives and are addressed in other sections of the resource management plan (e.g., effects on local economies).

BLM hosted six public scoping meetings in August and September 2003. A total of 205 people attended these meetings. Table 1.4-1 lists the dates and locations of these meetings. Four meetings were held within the planning areas. Other meetings were held in Redding, CA, and Reno, NV, to ensure that BLM heard the concerns of user groups residing outside the planning area. BLM also conducted a scoping meeting in the field in August 2003.

Table 1.4-1 Public Scoping Meetings for the Surprise, Alturas, and Eagle Lake Planning Process

Date	Location
Scoping Meetings	
August 6, 2003	Cedarville, CA
August 13, 2003	Susanville, CA
August 20, 2003	Alturas, CA
August 27, 2003	Redding, CA
August 28, 2003	Reno, NV
September 10, 2003	Fall River Mills, CA
Field Tours	
August 9, 2003	Surprise Field Office
August 16, 2003	Eagle Lake Field Office
August 23, 2003	Alturas Field Office
Social and Economic Outreach Workshops	
November 20, 2003	Susanville, CA
December 2, 2003	Alturas, CA
December 3, 2003	Cedarville, CA

A community workshop was conducted to discuss economics and social values in November 2003. The workshop focused on presenting economic data and working with residents to arrive at a common understanding of the following:

- economic drivers of communities,
- local social values related to places and natural resources,
- community goals and visions, and
- BLM's role in the community.

1.5 Issues Raised During the Scoping Process

Summarized here are the comments and issues submitted to date and the issues identified by the BLM that are being addressed in the planning process.

Issue 1: How should upland ecosystems be managed?

Vegetation has numerous values, both consumptive and non-consumptive, including wildlife habitat, wild horses, livestock grazing, forest products, and watershed protection. There is concern that resource use may be affecting the natural function and health of upland plant communities, soil productivity, and cultural resource site stability. The Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management adopted by the Secretary of the Interior in July 2000 help frame decisions in the PRMPs. Management objectives are needed for upland vegetation, which will help determine allowable uses, treatment methods, and other activities.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Current health, ecological status, and trends of the various ecosystems and plant communities, including those lands subject to juniper encroachment and other invasive species and noxious weeds (cheatgrass, yellow starthistle, medusahead).
- Current status and condition of habitat needed to support guilds or suites of species, including threatened and endangered and special status species, neo-tropical birds, and species disjoint from their population center or at the edge of their range.
- Options to restore and maintain healthy native plant communities.
- A mix of consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
- Options to maintain or improve soil productivity and site stability.
- Potential vegetative treatments, including seeding, grazing, mechanical, herbicides, biomass harvesting, fuel wood harvesting, and prescribed burning.
- Appropriate management of wild horses and burros.
- Policies regarding use of toxic substances, including pesticides.
- Management of species with cultural significance.

Issue 2: How will forestry issues be managed, and how will forest resources be utilized?

Forests have numerous values, both consumptive and non-consumptive. There is concern that resource use may be affecting the natural function and health of forest ecosystems and ecosystem components. Management objectives, which will help determine allowable uses, treatment methods, and other activities, are needed for forests.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Managing the resources to furnish a supply of forest products.
- Supporting traditional forestry uses.
- Maintaining healthy forests.
- Maintaining/enhancing habitat value/function of forests.
- Invasive and native juniper management.

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Issue 3: How will water resources be managed and utilized?

Water quality and quantity in a region have far-reaching impacts on watershed health, ecosystem health, and the pursuit of various land or resource uses. There is concern that resource use, both within and outside of BLM's jurisdiction, may be affecting the quality and quantity of water in the area.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Protecting water quality and quantity.
- Making adequate water supplies available for domestic and commercial uses.
- Protecting existing water rights and acquiring additional water rights.
- Use of water for power plant usage.

Issue 4: How will visual resources be managed and preserved?

Visual resources have a large impact on people utilizing land for recreation. There is concern that resource use may be affecting the quality of visual resources in the area.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Preserve visual nature of area while providing protection for the objects within the area and their identified uses.
- Reconcile uses (such as mining) with their potential visual impacts.
- Visual impact of the removal of junipers.
- Visual impact of man-made intrusions, including energy projects.

Issue 5: How should riparian areas and wetlands be managed?

Riparian and wetland vegetation provides the foundation for many resource uses on public lands, including habitat for wildlife and forage for domestic animals. Healthy riparian areas stabilize the soil, store water during spring and release it throughout the year, prevent erosion, and improve water quality. There is a concern that resource uses may be affecting the natural function and health of riparian areas and wetlands.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Current health, ecologic status, and trend of riparian/wetland plant communities.
- Current status of riparian and aquatic systems relative to habitat quality for and population status of fish, wildlife, plants, and invertebrates.
- Options to maintain or improve soil productivity, and soil and cultural resource site stability.
- Restoration and rehabilitation of riparian areas to proper functioning condition.
- Options to meet BLM standards and to promote hydrologic recovery including:
 - meeting state numeric, narrative, and non-degradation standards;
 - meeting needs of aquatic assemblage of native species; and
 - meeting needs of other beneficial uses.

Issue 6: How will wildland fire and prescribed fire be managed and utilized?

Wildland fire is recognized as having a vital role in the health of ecosystems in the planning area. It can also have significant impacts on the communities, economies, and infrastructures.

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Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Fire history in the area, and its effect and anticipated fire trends.
- The role of fire in upland and riparian ecosystems.
- Appropriate fire management response.
- Fuels management and the use of prescribed fire.
- Wildland-urban interface considerations and the National Fire Plan.
- Using fire to restore natural ecological systems to their proper functioning conditions.
- Management of areas after fires (restoration).

Issue 7: How should vehicular access and travel be managed on public lands?

Currently, public lands in the area are generally accessible by motorized vehicles to agency personnel for resource management, to commercial enterprise for permitted use or extraction of public resources, and to the general public for recreation and enjoyment of public lands. There is a need to balance access to public lands with resource management and protection.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Areas where off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, season of use, or the existing transportation system is in conflict with other goals and objectives.
- Appropriate area designations of open, closed, or limited OHV use and selection of routes of travel to meet goals and objectives.
- The extent and condition of existing roads and ways, including an analysis of road and trail expansion, both sanctioned and unsanctioned, in the recent past.
- Expansion, restriction, or reclamation of existing roads and trails.
- Implementation of a “closed unless posted open” policy for OHV access.
- Assessment of safety and stability of existing roads and trails.
- Acquisition of legal access to promote resource management and public use.
- Clear delineation of adopted roads and trails network and limitations or restrictions on use.
- Impacts from OHV activity on other resources:
 - sensitive resources (e.g., water, cultural resources, sensitive plants or habitats),
 - property,
 - maintenance costs, and
 - health and safety.

Issue 8: How should public lands be managed to sustain cultural resources and traditional cultural properties?

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Tribal consultation and input.
- Inventories of archaeological and cultural resources.
- Impacts to sites from land uses, including wild horses.

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- Archaeological looting.
- Development of a tribal consultation protocol.
- Management of traditional cultural properties and ethnographic sites, including rock art/petroglyph and other types of sites.
- Resource extraction.
- Future monitoring and partnerships.

Issue 9: How should the public lands be managed to meet the needs of local communities?

The small communities that are associated with public lands in this area depend on public land resources for economic and social benefits.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Economic and social benefits to local and regional communities that are derived from the public lands.
- Management decisions supporting local/regional economies.
- Complement private uses rather than competing with private enterprises (e.g., camping).
- Benefits of biomass energy to community.
- The importance of these benefits to local and regional economies.
- Lifestyle and quality of life of local communities.
- Dependency of private ranch land on public land grazing and impacts from private land conversion.

Issue 10: How will grazing and rangelands be managed?

Livestock and wild grazing animals have a large impact on the habitat that they occupy. There is concern that current grazing and range practices may be affecting the health and appearance of ecosystems in the area.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Providing adequate forage in planning area lands to support existing permit levels.
- Furnishing adequate infrastructure to support domestic animal grazing.
- Minimize increase of invasive, undesirable species, such as juniper.
- Management of rangeland resources to ensure healthy and ecologically sustainable communities, and to provide appropriate habitat elements for wildlife species.
- Current conditions and management situations in herd management areas.
- Current appropriate management levels for herd management areas.
- Management of neighboring non-isolated herd management areas as herd complexes.

Issue 11: What lands will be identified for retention, exchange, disposal, and acquisition?

Scattered tracts of public lands present throughout the area often complicate management or limit access or opportunity for enjoyment by the public. Opportunity exists to increase public benefits by disposing of some public lands through sale or exchange, or to acquire offered lands in areas that would enhance public enjoyment and facilitate resource management.

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Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Public lands that are central or not central to BLM's mission or PRMP goals and objectives.
- Isolated parcels of BLM lands and private in-holdings, especially in-holdings in wilderness study areas (WSAs).
- Effective management of isolated parcels.
- Existing rights-of-way and utility corridors.
- Extending/continuing trails from other areas and states, including historic trails such as the Applegate, Lassen, and Noble Emigrant trails.

Issue 12: *What lands are available for energy and mineral development?*

Potential for and interest in the development of renewable and non-renewable energy occurs across the planning area. Extraction of a variety of mineral materials occurs on public lands in the area and constitutes an important economic use of public land resources. Interest in decorative rock collection has also increased. Energy and mineral development may not be appropriate for all lands, such as those having special resource values.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- BLM's potential participation in the licensing process for power plants on adjacent lands that may impact BLM lands.
- Potential for renewable energy, such as wind, geothermal, and biomass.
- Compatibility of energy and mineral development with other resource uses, goals, and objectives.
- Establishment of utility corridors.
- Migratory bird routes.
- Impacts of mining on ground and surface waters.
- Potential impacts of decommissioning hydroelectric facilities.
- Timing of permits for renewable energy sources to coordinate with ongoing resource uses.
- Using woodlands as sources of biomass.
- Reclamation issues.
- Dismantling unused poles to reduce avian roosting/resting sites.

Issue 13: *How will recreation opportunities be managed?*

With the rapid population growth of urban areas in northeastern CA and northwestern NV, the demand for recreation opportunities has increased substantially in recent years.

In addition, a significant shift in the demographics of these urban areas, as well as in some of the more rural small communities, has noticeably changed the types of recreation experience traditionally sought on public lands.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Current extent and nature of demand for recreational opportunities in the analysis area.
- Compatibility with adjacent land uses and resources.
- Impact of OHVs and other recreation uses on hunting, grazing, water quality, riparian ecosystem health, scenic quality, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife, as well as other resources and land uses.

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- Management of trails to address OHVs, hiking, and horse riding.
- Management of user fees - Where will they be required? How will the fees be used?
- Master trail plan updates, integrations, extensions, etc.
- Integration of commercial recreation operations and opportunities with Alturas-Eagle Lake-Surprise resources.
- Changing demands for recreation on public lands:
 - Hang gliding.
 - Additional water sources.
 - Primitive camping.
 - Scenic driving.
 - Rock hounding.
 - Accessibility to disabled populations.

Issue 14: *How will fish, wildlife, and special status species be managed?*

Lands in the planning area are habitat for a range of fish, wildlife, and special status species. The habitat needs for healthy populations will be integrated into management decisions in the plan. Hunting and fishing activities are popular throughout the planning area as well and must be considered

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Habitat needs of special status species, including species listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Habitat needs of fish and wildlife in the planning area.
- Importance of habitats on BLM lands to overall populations.
- Management of domestic livestock while considering wildlife needs.
- Implementation of population monitoring plans.
- State agency populations of interest.
- Demand for hunting and fishing.
- Interest in reintroduction of bighorn sheep.
- Sage-grouse conservation strategies.

Issue 15: *How should special values and special management areas be managed?*

Existing special management areas, including WSAs, areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), and wild and scenic rivers (WSRs) require special management to protect particular values and/or resources. New areas may require special management, including free-flowing rivers and streams; unique vegetation types; habitats for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; cultural resources; and unique geologic resources.

Specific concerns that BLM is considering:

- Resources and values to be managed.
- Manageability of the areas.
- Current and potential land uses.
- Existing special management area effectiveness and appropriateness.

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- Travel and OHV usage in WSAs.
- Appropriate new designations.
- Visitor educational opportunities.
- Review wild and scenic status of all streams and rivers.

1.6 Issues Considered but Not Addressed

Issues beyond the scope of the Eagle Lake planning process or BLM's jurisdiction were also raised during the scoping process. Table 1.6-1 summarizes these concerns and explains why they were considered outside the scope of the PRMP.

Table 1.6-1 Issues Considered Beyond the Scope of the Eagle Lake PRMP

Issue Raised During Public Scoping	Reason Issue is Beyond the Scope of the Eagle Lake Planning Process
Ticketing and fines or penalties by BLM for those not using land properly	BLM enforces existing laws, regulations, and decisions to the best of its ability, given law enforcement and budgetary constraints. The level of fines for citations is not a decision a PRMP can make.
More funding by BLM to support law enforcement of OHV use	Funding levels are determined by the President and Congress, not by a PRMP. This comment has been forwarded to management for consideration in developing future budgets.
Use of BLM lands for small hydroelectric facilities for private home use	Regional water quality control boards have jurisdiction over instream uses. Therefore, a PRMP does not address this issue.
Mitigation for hazards by the Army before BLM acquires land	Specific land acquisitions would require site-specific environmental review before completion. This issue would be addressed for a specific acquisition.
Involvement of local fire districts in BLM's fire training	BLM coordinates many training opportunities for local fire districts, including classes at Lassen Community College, refresher courses, and periodic joint training sessions with local volunteers.
Public involvement in plan implementation	Near the completion of the PRMP, BLM will involve the public in developing an implementation strategy for the plans. This strategy will include volunteer and other public participation opportunities.
Use of fees from extraction activities to fund plan implementation	Funds gathered as part of the sale or lease of minerals and timber are deposited into the U. S. Treasury. Distributing these Treasury funds is the authority of Congress. BLM will propose funding from Congress for plan implementation when the plan is complete, but the PRMP does not discuss the use of funds.

1.7 Planning Criteria

BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610) require preparing planning criteria to guide development of all PRMPs. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that guide the development of the plan. The criteria determine how the planning team develops alternatives and ultimately selects a Preferred Alternative. These criteria ensure that plans address defined issues and that BLM avoids unneeded data collection and analysis. Planning criteria are based on the following: 1) standards prescribed by laws and regulations; 2) agency guidance; 3) the results of consultation and coordination with the public, Native

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American Indian tribes, and other federal, state, and local agencies and governmental entities; and 4) analysis of information pertinent to the planning area. Planning criteria may change as the planning process proceeds.

The planning criteria for the Eagle Lake PRMP that were developed and refined through scoping are as follows. BLM will:

- Develop the PRMP in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, BLM planning regulations, and all other laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies.
- Establish economic and social baselines and consequences in coordination with local governments.
- Initiate government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes on federal land management agency obligations under tribal treaties and laws or executive orders relating to Native American reserved rights, religious freedoms, and traditional use areas.
- Designate areas where OHV use is allowed and prohibited, and select specific routes in the planning process.
- Address WSR eligibility and suitability.
- Store all new data collected and its explanatory metadata in a data base. All metadata will meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards.
- Incorporate the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management into the PRMP.
- Coordinate resource inventory, planning, and management with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Native American tribes to the extent consistent with administering the public lands.
- Provide opportunities for public involvement, including early notice and other opportunities for citizens, interested groups, and others (including Native American tribes) to participate and comment on the plan.
- Closely coordinate the planning effort with national and state fire management planning to provide needed program direction.
- Closely coordinate the planning effort with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Consultation Agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management for the Northeastern California Resource Management Plans.

The alternatives in this PRMP were developed according to the purpose and need; to address issues described above; to meet legal mandates, such as the *Clean Water Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*; to satisfy many regulatory constraints; to support national policy, including BLM Strategic Plan goals; and to follow State Director guidance (see 43 CFR 1610.0-4[b]). A detailed list of legal and regulatory guidance is provided in Appendix A.

1.8 Collaboration

BLM planning is community-based, where interested groups and people—often with varied or opposing interests—work together to devise solutions with broad public support for managing BLM-administered lands. Cooperating local, state, tribal, and federal agencies have been part of the planning team for the PRMP to the fullest extent possible. During plan implementation, BLM will continue partnerships with these public and local, state, and tribal governments and agencies to select high priority projects and to resolve emerging issues.

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CEQ defines a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any federal, state, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency. The following are formal cooperating agencies for this PRMP:

- Lassen and Modoc Counties, CA;
- Washoe County, NV;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- California Department of Fish and Game;
- Nevada Department of Wildlife;
- Nevada and California State Historic Preservation Offices; and
- Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The Northeast California Resource Advisory Council contributed issues and reviewed goals, objectives, and management alternatives. Other groups that participated in the planning process include California Department of Forestry and Lassen National Forest.

1.9 Public Comment Process

The Draft Eagle Lake Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in April 2006. BLM distributed approximately 250 copies of the Draft Eagle Lake RMP. The public had 90 days, until July 27, 2006, to submit comments on the DEIS. During this period, BLM held seven public comment meetings, as follows:

Public Comment Meetings	
Date	Location
May 30, 2006	Susanville, CA
May 31, 2006	Cedarville, CA
June 1, 2006	Alturas, CA
June 12, 2006	Reno, NV Redding, CA
June 13, 2006	Fall River Mills, CA
June 12, 2006	Redding, CA
June 15, 2006	Dorris, CA

The public comment period generated approximately 7,253 submissions of one (nearly identical) form letter, 3 submissions of another form letter, and 49 additional unique comment letters from individuals and groups. The number of comments that BLM analyzed and responded to was approximately 551. These comments and BLM's responses to them are summarized in Appendix O of this document. Based on the comments and feedback received, BLM has prepared this PRMP/FEIS, which will be followed by a 30-day public protest period. Following the protest period, BLM will resolve protests and publish a Record of Decision for the Eagle Lake RMP.

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1.10 Coordination and Consistency with Other Plans

Planning decisions in the Eagle Lake PRMP will be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies to the extent practical, consistent with federal law and regulations (FLPMA, Section 202(c)(9)). BLM-administered lands in the planning area are located in two states and four counties. The lands also share boundaries with tribal lands. BLM manages land near or contiguous with Lassen and Plumas National Forests.

BLM would consult with the military and jointly analyze any impacts to the military mission including military operating areas, military training routes, air space, and coastal and ground access when making any land use decisions on BLM property. This would be done at the earliest possible time to minimize impacts to current and future military mission uses. Examples of land uses that could impact the military mission include, but are not limited to, habitat improvement projects, environmental restoration projects, public utility development (e.g., erection of cell phone towers, electrical transmission lines, wind energy towers and solar array towers), large mining developments, recreational development (e.g., campgrounds, visitor centers), and land exchanges for the purpose of facilitating the preceding land uses.

Cooperating agencies helped BLM develop of a full range of alternatives including the Preferred Alternative, which are consistent with management goals on lands adjoining BLM lands. The following is a list of key plans consulted in developing the PRMP:

- Lassen County General Plan
- Master Plan of Washoe County
- Lassen and Plumas National Forest Plans
- National Historic Trails Plan.

Decisions in the PRMP are also compatible with decisions in land use plans for BLM-administered lands adjoining the planning area.

1.11 Changes between Draft RMP/DEIS and PRMP/FEIS

The Draft Eagle Lake RMP and DEIS was published in April 2006. The public had 90 days, until July 27, 2006, to submit comments on the DEIS. All comments received were seriously considered, and many were used to assist in making changes or clarifications to the PRMP. Changes made to the DEIS include the following:

- Changes to the DEIS Preferred Alternative (see Section 1.12 below).
- Clarifications, corrections, supplemental analysis, and additional information added to various chapters of the PRMP/FEIS.
- One new map was created and is included with this document.

1.12 Changes to the Preferred Alternative

Based on the comments received from the public and cooperating agencies, and from internal discussions, the following list summarizes the substantive changes made to the Preferred Alternative between the Draft RMP/DEIS and this PRMP/FEIS. These are arranged by topic, and followed by bulleted descriptions of the changes made.

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Substantive Changes Made to the Preferred Alternative

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- Clarification to the definition and number of cultural resource management areas.
- Additional information on current impacts to cultural resources.
- Corrections to Chapter 3.2.2 Ethnography to include Washoe Tribe.

Energy & Minerals

- Removal of 'no surface occupancy' restrictions from North Dry valley ACEC (10,156 acres) to allow for exploration and development of geothermal resources.
- Language added on how wind energy projects will be designed and developed in accordance with the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States, 2005.

Fire Management

- Clarification of the relationship between NorCal Fire Management Plan and Eagle Lake PRMP decisions.

Fuels Management

- Additional text describing how important wildlife habitats will be protected during fuels management projects.

Rights-of-Way/Utilities

- Designation of the potential California-Nevada (east-west) utility corridor as a right-of-way corridor.
- Designation of the Empire Lateral of the Tuscarora natural gas pipeline as a right-of-way utility corridor.

Livestock Grazing

- Language added to assure consistency between livestock grazing and the Buffalo-Skedaddle Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy.
- Clarification of livestock grazing strategies involving rest or deferment.

Special Designations

ACECs

- Additional text describing livestock grazing strategies presently used in ACECs.
- Correction to ACEC management summary table in Chapter 2: Eagle Lake BLM-administered shoreline is 85% closed to grazing.
- Additional text added defining ACECs as right-of-way avoidance areas.

WSRs

- Clarification of protection measures that will be applied to the Susan River, Willow Creek, and Lower Smoke Creek, without WSR suitability recommendation.
- Addition to Appendix L: table providing WSR inventory (streams evaluated for eligibility) and WSR suitability determinations.

Travel Management

- Additional language to clarify the maintenance of existing private access rights in relationship to proposed route closures.

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Vegetation

- Addition of table to Chapter 2: Proposed Vegetation Treatments by Vegetative Alliance and Land Health Rating.
- Language added to clarify vegetation treatments by vegetation type.

Riparian/Wetlands

- Preferred Alternative has been changed to emphasize improvement of riparian conditions, as originally described in Alternative 2.

Wild Horses and Burros

- Changes to glossary terms and definitions.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Federally Listed Species

Carson Wandering Skipper

- Additional information on potentially suitable Carson wandering skipper habitat.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

- Updated information on this species is provided.

Oregon Spotted Frog

- This species has been removed from the Eagle Lake Field Office's federally listed species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The field office area is technically outside of the range for this species.

Ungulates

- Additional information on bitterbrush as a very important browse species for mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Sagebrush Ecosystems and Sagebrush-Obligate/Associated Species

- Additional impact analysis of sage-grouse habitat.
- Additional text describing how important sage-grouse habitats will be protected during fuels management projects.

Other Native Wildlife Species

- Addition of proposed management action: "Promote watchable wildlife opportunities and develop interpretive guides/programs/sites".

Native and Non-Native Fish and Aquatic Species

- Addition of 17 fish species to Appendix G. List of Species Known to Occur in the Eagle Lake Field Office Area.

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